



**FOUNTAIN HILLS  
SANITARY DISTRICT**  
*Recycles Every Drop*

# Added Salt Turns Grass Yellow

Residents of Fountain Hills enjoy having some of the finest parks and golf courses in the region. As an example, Fountain Park and the world-famous fountain is a destination for many visitors to Arizona. However, maintaining the grass in these parks, in the desert, is complicated. Freshwater is a premium commodity in Arizona, and the Town and the Fountain Hills Sanitary District have a responsibility to protect this valuable resource for our residents.

Fountain Park, Golden Eagle Park, and Desert Vista Park, and many of our golf courses use recycled water for irrigation, which is wastewater treated to a high degree for treatment for bacteria and viruses. But recycled wastewater is highly polluted with sodium. Long-term exposure to elevated sodium levels can burn, damage, or kill grass, shrubs, and trees.

When you add salt (specifically sodium chloride) to your water softener, it disappears over time. The salt "softens" the water that is used in your home for drinking and washing and then is discharged to the sewer system. Once in the sewer system, the water is collected, treated, and sent to local parks and golf courses to water the grass and landscaping.

The recycled water also refills Fountain Lake. In the end, every 40-pound bag of salt that is used in water softeners in Town ends up applied to the grass at local parks and golf courses.

**Tip: Adjust your water softener settings if you refill more than 4 times a year.**

Typically, softeners are configured to regenerate more often than is necessary, causing more salt to be released into the sewer. Reducing how often the system regenerates can reduce how often you buy salt, saving both money and our local turf.

*To learn more about the Fountain Hills Sanitary District and recycled water, visit [www.az-fhsd.gov](http://www.az-fhsd.gov).*

## How to Improve Recycled Water

- Replacing your water softener with a salt-free water-conditioning system,
- Switching to potassium, instead of sodium, salt for your existing water softener, or
- Using an exchange tank service that exchanges water tanks, requiring no salt or maintenance on your part.

## Using Potassium Chloride in place of sodium in a water softener makes a difference.

Benefits of using Potassium Chloride in your water softener:

- Provides needed potassium to your diet
- Reduces sodium intake
- Doesn't pollute the local water source
- Better for grass at local parks and golf courses
- Protects pipes and appliances
- Safe for all softeners
- It is more expensive, but it should only be 4 times/year